AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture, the mixture comprising a base component and an acid component, wherein[[:]] the base component comprises 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole and 4-methylimidazole, and optionally 2-ethylimidazole, and the acid-base mixture is ion conductive and has an ion conductivity of 10^{-4} Scm^{-1} or higher at 100°C.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, having a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point.

4. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being an equimolar mixture of the base component and the acid component.

5. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being liquid at room temperature.

6-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an acid structurally free from a fluorine atom.

10. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an inorganic acid.

11. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being proton conductive.

14-25. (cancelled)

26. (withdrawn and currently amended) The ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture according to claim ~~14~~ 1, which comprises an electrolyte in a fuel cell, a secondary ~~batter~~ battery, an electric double layer capacitor, or an electrolytic capacitor.

27. (withdrawn and currently amended) A fuel cell, a secondary ~~batter~~ battery, an electric double layer capacitor, or an electrolytic capacitor comprising an ion conductor as an electrolyte, said ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture comprising a base component and an acid component,

wherein the base component comprises 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole and 4-methylimidazole, and optionally 2-ethylimidazole, and

said ion conductor has a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point, and a glass transition temperature of 25°C or lower.

28. (cancelled)

29. (new) The ion conductor according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole:4-methylimidazole is 1:1.

30. (new) The ion conductor according to claim 1, wherein the amount of optional 2-ethylimidazole is 90% by weight or less of the base component.

31. (new) The ion conductor according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of base component to acid component ranges from 99:1 to 1:99.

32. (new) The ion conductor according to claim 1, wherein the ion conductor has a melting point of 120°C or lower and a glass transition temperature of 25°C or lower.